

not empowered to undertake such contacts. Rather his mission was to prepare for Arafat's subsequent meeting with Mubarak. He was chosen for this mission because he is one of the most open advocates of relations with the reactionary regimes, and thus highly acceptable to them. One Jordanian official put it bluntly. When asked why Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifai would meet Al Hassan despite the problems between the PLO and Jordan, he said: «A distinction should be made between Al Hassan and the others in the PLO» (*Al Qabas*, July 9th).

Al Hassan is serving as the troubleshooter for the pro-Jordanian right wing in the PLO, that see their political future in cooperation with the Jordanian regime. This faction was loath to cancel the Amman accord; they would have preferred to freeze it so it could be resurrected at a later date. This same faction also resisted the PNC resolution that conditioned relations with Egypt on prior PNC resolutions that spelled out the positions and principles of Palestinian struggle. After the Egyptian regime closed the PLO offices in Cairo, in response to this resolution, Hani Al Hassan offered an apology to the regime by making his own interpretation of the resolution.

SHIELDING THE CAMP DAVID REGIME

The Egyptian regime has long demanded that the PLO recognize UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338; that it participate in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and abandon violence as conditions for being included in an international conference. Hassan's visit to Cairo was neither preceded nor followed by a change in the Egyptian regime's position. Furthermore, the PLO's offices in Egypt were not reopened.

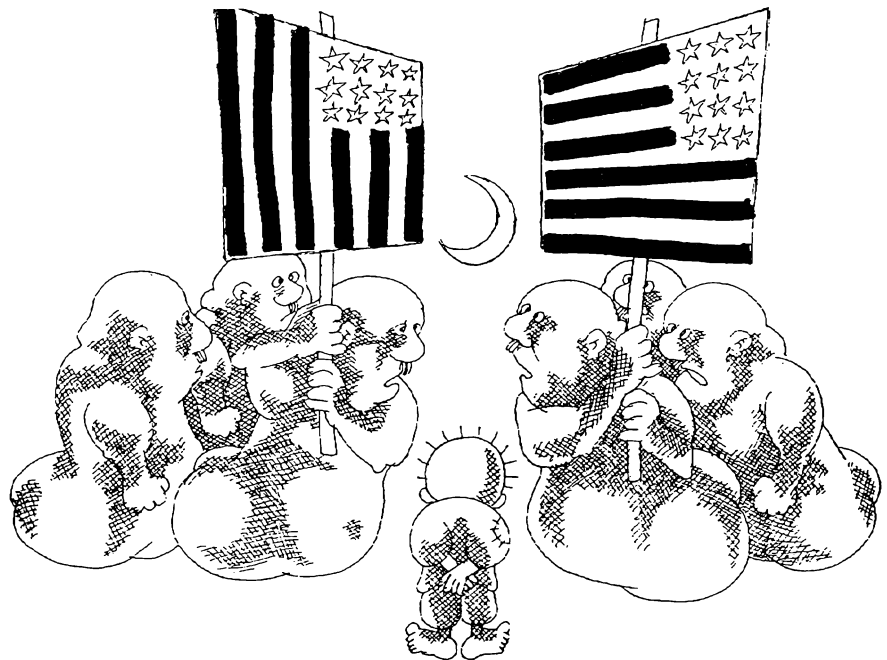
On July 9th, Mubarak met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Geneva. On July 11th, Mubarak told reporters that he is calling on the Palestinians «to look for a way whereby they can join the conference.» On July 20th, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid arrived in 'Israel', the first visit by an Egyptian foreign minister since 1982. This chain of events indicates that the Egyptian regime is exploiting the resumption of relations with the PLO as a cover for its new steps to further normalize relations with the Zionist state. It proves that the

PLO's having relations with the Egyptian regime does not help in distancing this regime from the Camp David accords. On the contrary, such relations shield the regime as it continues to consolidate its relations with 'Israel'.

MEANWHILE IN JORDAN

Jordan's conditions for restoring relations with the PLO were set by King Hussein in February 1986, when he broke off coordination with Yasir Arafat. These conditions have not changed, but have been echoed by more than one Jordanian official since then.

should be based on the PNC resolutions which confirm the PLO's sole, legitimate right to represent the Palestinian people, and their right to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. Added to this is the resolution asserting the PLO's right to participate in an international conference on an equal footing with the other parties. Relations with Jordan should also be conditioned on the regime halting all plans to create an alternative Palestinian leadership in cooperation with the Zionist occupation authorities, through



Contradictions between the reactionary Arab regimes

The four conditions are: The PLO must recognize UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338; it must agree to participate in an international conference as part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; it must agree to resolving the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, i.e., give up the Palestinian people's historical rights in Palestine; and it must renounce violence and 'terrorism'.

Jordanian sources have said that Hani Al Hassan will pay another visit to Amman. So far, the results of his first visit are unclear, but it is clear that the trend he represents is eagerly seeking the restoration of relations with both Jordan and Egypt. While, in principle, it is not wrong for the PLO to normalize its relations with Jordan, this

the so-called development plan or the joint administration plan.

THE MUBARAK—ARAFAT MEETING

On July 28th, PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat met Mubarak at the OAU summit in Ethiopia. Arafat called the meeting «warm, constructive and fruitful». AFP (French Press Agency) reported that Mubarak had promised Arafat to reopen the PLO offices in Cairo, and that Arafat would soon pay a visit to Egypt. In fact, Hani Al Hassan later visited Cairo. However, these seeming changes in the Egyptian position are strictly superficial. Egyptian officials continued to reiterate the regime's long-standing position on the PLO and relations with it.